



Who's Who and What's What in American Government

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Curriculum Area	History and Social Science
Subject Area	U.S. Government
Grade Level	12 th Grade
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student will be able to gather information about the various levels and branches of government The student will be able to work in a team to create an electronic presentation explaining the structure, roles, duties, and privileges of the various levels and branches of government.
Correlation to the SOL	History 12.7, 12.9 (New GOVT.7, GOVT.8) C/T 12.2, 12.4
Video/Technology Hardware/Software Needed	<p>For class: Computer with Internet connectivity, connected to a printer (preferably color) Computer Presentation System Presentation software (such as <i>HyperStudio</i> or <i>ClarisWorks</i>)</p> <p>For each group of students: Computer with Internet Connectivity, connected to a printer (preferably color) and perhaps a scanner Presentation software (such as <i>HyperStudio</i> or <i>ClarisWorks</i>)</p>
Materials Required	<p>For class: Reference materials</p> <p>For each group of students: Worksheets on government (see attached worksheets: Federal Executive, Federal Legislative, Federal Judicial, State Executive, State Legislative, State Judicial, Local—example is created for Richmond but can be adapted to other localities:</p>

	<p>Web Sites:</p> <p><i>United States Legislative Branch</i> http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/legislative/congress.html</p> <p><i>Official US Executive Branch Web Sites</i> http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/executive/fed.html</p> <p><i>The Federal Judiciary</i> http://www.uscourts.gov</p> <p><i>The White House</i> http://www.whitehouse.gov</p> <p><i>US House of Representatives</i> http://www.house.gov</p> <p><i>US Senate</i> http://www.senate.gov</p> <p><i>The Cabinet</i> http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/cabinet-links.html</p> <p><i>Commonwealth of Virginia Web Site</i> http://www.state.va.us</p> <p><i>Virginia's Judicial System</i> http://www.courts.state.va.us</p> <p><i>Virginia Online: Virginia Legislature</i> http://legis.state.va.us/vaonline/li1.htm</p> <p><i>Virginia General Assembly</i> http://legis.state.va.us/</p> <p><i>Local Government Web Sites</i> http://www.vipnet.org/portal/government/localgov.htm</p>
Procedures/Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divide class into 7 groups. Each group will have a different branch of government at a specific level (i.e., Federal Executive, Federal Legislative, Federal Judicial, State Executive, State Legislative, State Judicial; Group 7 will do all three branches of local government). 2. Using a combination of text and Internet research, each group will complete their worksheet on the structure, roles, duties, and privileges of their assigned topic. 3. This worksheet will be turned in to the teacher to be checked for accuracy before moving on to the next step. While they are waiting, the group will collect pictures of individuals in the various positions they are studying. If needed, pictures can be scanned. 4. Teacher will return worksheets. Each group will correct its worksheet and verify corrections with teacher. 5. Each group will create a PowerPoint/HyperStudio presentation based on their appropriate worksheet. Basic requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • title slide (include names of group members) • structure slide (flow chart) • several slides for characteristics of branch (term of office, qualifications, powers, duties, etc.) • leadership slides (picture, job title, name, primary responsibility) • incorporate the information contained on worksheet. 6. Each group will give its presentation to the class. Students in other groups will use the presentations to complete the worksheets on the other branches on government. 7. After each presentation, allow time for class to complete evaluation form and appropriate worksheet. 8. Clarify/discuss/extend as needed.
Content Assessment	Teacher will collect and grade worksheets.

	<p>Scale for presentation:</p> <p>5 - A Presentation was free of spelling and grammatical errors. There were no mistakes in content. All required information was included.</p> <p>4 – B Presentation had a few, minor spelling/grammatical errors. There were a few minor mistakes in content. All required information was included.</p> <p>3 – C Presentation had more than 5 spelling/grammatical errors. There were more than 3 content errors. There were only 1-2 missing pieces of information.</p> <p>4 – D Presentation had more than 7 spelling/grammatical errors. There were more than 5 content errors. There were more than 2 missing pieces of information.</p>
Technology Integration Assessment	<p>Checklist for presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did each student participate? • Does the presentation work smoothly? • Is the presentation easy to view/read? • Does the presentation contain the required chart, graphics, etc.? <p>Peer evaluation</p>
Extensions	<p>Writing: Students could write a “biography” for an invented person who has moved from local to state to federal government, and what they did in each of their jobs.</p> <p>Current Events: Students could be presented with current issues from the news and asked to identify the branch and level of government that would address the issue.</p> <p>Media Literacy: Students could track the local media (television and/or print) coverage of local, state and federal government news to determine extent of coverage.</p>

THE PRESIDENCY

Qualifications	1. 2. 3.
Roles of President chief of state chief executive chief administrator chief diplomat commander in chief chief legislator chief of party chief citizen	

THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

Executive Power	Gives the President the power to. . .
• Executing the law	
• The Ordinance Power	
• The Appointing Power	
• The Removal Power	
Diplomatic Power	Gives the President the power to. . .
• Treaties	
• Executive Agreements	
• Recognition	
Military Power	
Legislative Power	
Judicial Power	

THE ORDER OF SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

How does the constitution provide for situations in which the president is disabled?

What duties are given to the vice president by the Constitution?

How can a vacancy in the vice presidency be filled?

List the steps in a Presidential election.

What is the President's Cabinet? List the Cabinet positions and current officeholders.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Court	Number of Courts	Number of Judges	Types of Cases/Jurisdiction
Supreme Court			
Courts of Appeals			
District Court			
Trade Court			
Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit			
U.S. Claims Court			
Territorial Court			
Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces			
U.S. Tax Court			
Court of Veterans Appeals			

How do Federal Judges gain their office?
What are some of the duties and privileges they have?

THE FEDERAL CONGRESS

	House of Representatives	Senate
Characteristic Size Terms Date of Elections		
Qualifications Age Length of Citizenship Residence		
Presiding Officers Title Name		
Other Officers Majority Floor Leader Minority Floor Leader Majority Whip Minority Whip		

POWERS – define and give an example of each of the following:

1. expressed
2. implied
3. nonlegislative:
 - amending
 - electoral
 - impeachment
 - investigatory
 - executive

List the steps in “How a bill becomes a law.”

List some duties and privileges each Legislative member has.

Study Guide - Local Government

City of Richmond

What form of government does Richmond utilize?

Who is (are):

- the mayor?
- the members of City Council?
- the city manager?
- the superintendent of schools?
- the chief of police?
- the fire chief?
- the city sheriff?

What does the city manager do?

What are his/her rights and duties?

What does the city council do?

What are members' rights and duties?

Describe the logo for the City of Richmond.

VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Who is the Governor?

Who is the Lieutenant Governor?

Who is the Attorney General?

What are the qualifications for the office of Governor?

Who heads each of the following departments of the Governor's Cabinet?

- Administration
- Finance
- Natural Resources
- Public Safety
- Commerce and Trade
- Health and Human Resources
- Technology
- Transportation

Who is the Secretary of the Commonwealth? What does he/she do?

What are the privileges and duties of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor?

THE STATE JUDICIARY

Court	Number of Courts	Number of Judges	Types of Cases/Jurisdiction
Supreme Court			
Courts of Appeals			
General District Court			
Circuit Court			
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court			

How does one get to be Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court?

What are the qualifications for membership on the Virginia Supreme Court?

List the names of the members of the Virginia Supreme Court.

What other courts make up the Virginia Judicial Branch?

What are the duties of judges?

Are there any privileges to holding the office of judge?

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

What are the qualifications for membership in the Virginia Senate?

What are the qualifications for membership in the Virginia House of Delegates?

Who is the presiding officer of the Senate? What is his title?

Who is the president pro tempore of the Senate?

Who is the Senate majority leader? What party does he/she represent?

Who is the Senate minority leader? What party does he/she represent?

Who serves as senator from each of the following districts? To what party does he/she belong?

9th
10th
16th

Who is the presiding officer of the House of Delegates? What is his title?

Who is the House majority leader? What party does he/she represent?

Who is the House minority leader? What party does he/she represent?

Who serves as delegate from each of the following districts? To what party does he/she belong?

68th
69th
70th
71st
72nd
73rd
74th

Which of the delegates listed above does NOT represent a portion of the City of Richmond?